

Paul Noone & Meghana Kakubal
2019-20 School Board Student Representatives
studentreps@mercerislandschools.org (please use your @misd400 email to reach us)
March 24, 2020



Dear Students of the MISD Schools,

Bizarre is probably the best word to describe the past couple weeks. We hope that despite the uncertainty, you've been able to stay safe and healthy--the number one priority for our district.

Our names are Meghana Kakubal and Paul Noone, and we are your student representatives on the MISD School Board. We gather and advocate for student voice during school administration decision making throughout the year, including now.

This letter has two objectives:

- One, to update you on the current status of MISD regarding the COVID-19 threat.
- Two, establish an avenue of communication so we can hear your thoughts, concerns, questions, ideas, comments--literally anything.

Firstly, **an update**:

Our school district has been ordered to close by Governor Jay Inslee at least through April 24th, and with that all sports, events, and school sanctioned activities during this time period have been canceled or moved to a later date.

Wednesday (3/18), our school board unanimously passed a resolution giving Superintendent Donna Colosky and her team more jurisdiction and flexibility during this emergency to come up with creative solutions. The district is now working on 5 priorities: Nutrition, Child Care, Graduation, Staff, and Teaching & Learning.

NUTRITION: MISD is providing free sack lunches available to *all* kids ages 0-18. We want to make sure that no child goes without a meal during these hard times. Please pre-order the lunches from the district website, however no one will be turned away. More info [here](#).

CHILD CARE: Throughout this closure, child-care services will be provided free of charge to healthcare workers and first responders. More info [here](#).

GRADUATION: The Class of 2020 *will* graduate this year. A work group of staff and administrators are continuing to meet and discuss how we can ensure that ALL seniors will be

able to graduate on time this spring. They are considering things like crediting, testing, and more. As of right now, no decision has been made about prom or the graduation ceremony--we will update you as conversations continue.

STAFF: The district is working to make sure all teachers and staff are accommodated throughout this time period. Agreements on pay, hours, and responsibilities are being reached, and staff safety is a priority. Teachers also have access to professional learning opportunities throughout the closure. The teachers all miss being in classrooms with you and are working hard to find effective alternative methods of learning!

TEACHING & LEARNING: Starting this week, teachers will be engaging with us (students) to a greater degree through email, Schoology, and/or webpages. Be on the lookout for more instructional materials and updates! More specifics [here](#) (under the 3/20 update). Also, please complete [this survey](#) if you do not have adequate technology or internet access during the closure and desire to check out an iPad or a hotspot from the district.

As you guys can probably tell from this letter so far, it is vital that you keep on checking communications through Schoology, the district website, and emails to stay up to date.

We also highly encourage you guys to follow all CDC guidelines on safety and social distancing in order to keep others healthy and “flatten the curve” of this ongoing pandemic.

If you have ANY questions, concerns, comments, or ideas for us PLEASE contact us at studentreps@mercerislandschools.org. You will need to use your district provided @misd400 email. We are 100% dedicated to advocating for you and will continue to keep you updated regularly throughout this time period.

Thank you so much for your continued patience, flexibility and support!

Go Islanders 🐢

Paul Noone (Junior Representative)
Meghana Kakubal (Senior Representatives)